(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

FICCI and CII's demand for reduction of interest on PFs

2050. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FICCI and CII have sought from Government to reduce rate of interest on provident funds available to employees and workers at present;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what is Government's stand on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) :(a) to (c) Suggestions are received from time to time from several forums for reduction of interest on Provident Funds, which are considered in terms of existing policy of the Government of India. As of now, there is no such proposal to reduce the interest rate on Provident Funds.

Corporate/Income Tax collection

2051. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Corporate and Income tax collected in this financial year, so far;

(b) what is the total achievement in terms of percentage as compared to the last financial year;

(c) the number of more people brought into assessment; and

(d) what steps are being taken to bring more people into the Tax net?